

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending and at issue in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended, no new claims have been added. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

I. STATUS OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-18, and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,870,482 (Loeppert); claims 2, 4, 9, 11, and 19-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Loeppert.

In light of the following remarks and foregoing amendments, applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully solicit entrance of these amendments, withdrawal of the claim rejections, and allowance of claims 1-23.

II. CLAIM REJECTION IN VIEW OF LOEPPERT

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15, recite a device comprising, in relevant part, a sidewall having a plurality of ridges and grooves arranged to support a thin-film plate, wherein the plurality of ridges and grooves of the sidewall cooperate to form at least one rib, and wherein the ridges and grooves extend substantially perpendicular to an edge defined by the periphery. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 2, the thin-film plate 12 is supported by a sidewall 14 arranged generally perpendicular to the thin-film plate 12 and including a plurality of periodic ridges 20 and grooves 22 forming a ribbed structure. This ridges 20 and grooves 22 are substantially perpendicular to an edge defined by the periphery. See generally, page 4, lines 18-27 for the supporting disclosure.



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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2643

Loeppert does not disclose, teach or suggests, a sidewall having a plurality of ridges and grooves arranged perpendicular to an edge of a periphery of a thin-film plate to support the thin-film plate. Loeppert discloses a cantilevered thin-film structure having a diaphragm 12 extended over an opening and anchored at a fixed end 12a to a support structure 11 while the remaining three sides are free and unanchored. Even if we assume for the sake of argument that the support structure is a sidewall, Loeppert does not disclose a plurality of ridges and grooves, much less a plurality of ridges and grooves perpendicular to an edge defined by a periphery of the thin-film plate that support the thin-film plate. In fact, Loeppert discloses ridges and grooves being formed only within the diaphragm, and *not the sidewall*, to increase the overall stiffness of the cantilever diaphragm. For all these reasons, Loeppert does not anticipate or render unpatentable claims 1, 8 and 15, or any claim dependent thereon. Thus, claims 1-23 are allowable over Loeppert.

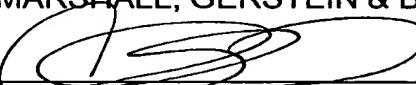
III. CONCLUSION

For these foregoing reasons, applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance. If there are any additional fees or refunds required, the Commissioner is directed to charge or debit Deposit Account No. 13-2855 (30521/071). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted for,

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